



# FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2007

## Could Network Congestion Block Your Emergency Calls?

*The following information was forwarded by WFCA E-911 Advisory Committee members Steve Lich (Camano Island Fire & Rescue) and Mark Freitas (S. King Fire & Rescue)*

**C**ould network congestion block your emergency calls during the next emergency? When more than 10-15% of the public attempt calls at the same time, the public network can become congested, making it very difficult for emergency personnel to complete essential calls.

Network congestion can be wide-spread such as after an earthquake, terrorist attack, public panic, tsunami warning, etc. Or, congestion can be localized, such as near a stadium, arena, fairgrounds, campus, freeway interchange, incident site, fire, etc.

The National Communications System, a federal Department of Homeland Security agency, provides two services (outlined below) that significantly increase the probability of completing calls during periods of network congestion or when network capacity has been impaired.

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**The National Communications System provides two services that significantly increase the probability of completing calls during periods of network congestion...**

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### Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS)

GETS is an emergency calling card service that can be used from virtually any telephone to provide priority for emergency calls. It is available to federal, state, local and tribal government, and industry organizations responsible for emergency preparedness and response.

Individuals who need to communicate during an emergency should carry a personal GETS card. Key locations and functions, such as EOCs, PSAPs, police and fire stations, IT centers, hospitals, and other essential facilities should keep a supply of GETS cards on hand for use during an emergency.

GETS uses the full capacity of the public network; it is not a separate system or network with limited capacity. The only cost to obtain GETS cards is the short time it takes to request GETS through the easy-to-use on-line system and to train personnel. GETS cards remain U.S. government property for official use by authorized personnel; the user organization is neither purchasing nor acquiring ownership of the GETS cards.

*See Network on Page Five*

## Featured Speakers at Conference: Ford and Whitt

**T**he WFCA is pleased to announce two special speakers for this year's conference: Keynoter Steve Ford and Saturday morning presenter Jim Whitt.

Steve Ford, son of Gerald R. Ford, will share his unique perspective on life as the President's son, touching on a broad range of fascinating subjects, among which include:

- Being 18 years old and having 10 Secret Service agents as constant companions;

*See Speaker Page Five*

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## A Message from the President *by Joe Dawson*



**I**t's conference time once again. I don't know about the rest of you but I not only look forward to our featured speakers and classes, I also look forward to

the opportunity to network with my fellow commissioners and other fire-related folks from around the state. It is interesting to me how we have so many similar issues. Often times, one can glean some valuable advice from others regarding issues facing the fire service.

I'm sure you all agree with me that we have a top notch office staff. Executive Director Roger Ferris and the three ladies who staff the office are really the unsung heroes of our association. They work tirelessly on our behalf and do so with dignity and efficiency. Although all four of them simply say they are doing their job I would like to publicly acknowledge them.

Roger has been with the association for 19 years. Roger and his wife have two children and Roger holds a Political Science degree from WSU. Even though Roger is an avowed Cougar, I'm sure you Huskies respect him just the

same.

Nora Eyllenfeldt, WFCOA Office Manager, has been with the association for an unbelievable 27 years. I'm sure she has seen many changes during that time. Nora has a 15 year old daughter who is learning to drive so if her nerves seem frayed, she has good cause.

**I look forward to seeing  
you at conference in  
the Tri-Cities.**

Sandy Babcock, WFCOA Finance Manager, has been with the association for nearly 25 years. Sandy and her husband have two children, one of whom is also learning to drive so she's in the same boat as Nora.

And, last but not least, Amber Brown, WFCOA Secretary/Receptionist, has been with the association for almost four years. During that time she attended St. Martin's University in Lacey and received a degree in Finance and Marketing.

So there they are. Four of the most dedicated people I know. It is a pleasure to work with them. Please join me in stopping by the registration desk sometime during the conference to extend your gratitude to all four of these fine folks—they deserve it.

Of primary consideration during our annual business meeting will be the election of officers and regional directors for the 2008 calendar year. Included in this issue of *Fireline* please find a report from your Nominating Committee that lists the folks they have nominated for office. Nominations for all open positions will be solicited from the floor at the conference.

Also of importance during our annual business meeting will be action upon the amendments to our bylaws that have been presented to the association and the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommendations regarding those amendments. Those items were mailed to all members of the WFCOA a few weeks ago. Please review them carefully and come prepared to vote on them.

Thanks for your association with the WFCOA and I look forward to seeing you at conference in the Tri-Cities.

## 2007 Fire Marshal Roundtable

**T**he 2007 Fire Marshal Roundtable, presented by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office and the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals, will be held October 16-19 in Ocean Shores (Quinault Beach Resort).

This year's conference, designed for fire chiefs, fire marshals, code enforcement personnel, public educators and building officials, will

focus on important prevention and strategy issues facing fire officials. The conference will cover diverse issues of interest and concern to everyone.

For more information on the program, lodging and registration, please contact Ellen Tombleson at the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360.753.0411 or email [ellen.tombleson@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:ellen.tombleson@wsp.wa.gov).

## ON THE WEB

To view the latest information from the State Fire Marshal's Office, USFA, DNR and other agencies, log on to the WFCOA website at [www.wfca.wa.gov](http://www.wfca.wa.gov) and select the *News & Press Releases* tab (left-hand side of the homepage).





# 2007 WFCFA Conference Class Offerings

The WFCFA's 59th Annual Conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, October 25-27.

A "Welcome to Conference" continental breakfast, sponsored by **Emergency Services Insurance Program** and **Rice Fergus Miller Planning & Architecture**, will be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, the 25th; opening ceremonies will commence at 10.

The conference will conclude on Saturday, the 27th, at 12 noon. Conference classes are outlined below; please contact the WFCFA office at 1.800.491.9322 or email [wfcfa@wfcfa.wa.gov](mailto:wfcfa@wfcfa.wa.gov) if you have questions or need more information.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 25

### PREVENTING FRAUD IN YOUR FIRE DISTRICT

In the past three years, at least ten cases of fraud totaling over one million dollars in public funds have been identified in fire districts throughout the state of Washington. Most losses were detected by fire district management; however, in many instances, not until significant losses had taken place.

Representatives from the Washington State Auditor's Office will provide valuable tips to assist commissioners and chiefs in developing policies and procedures to monitor fire district fiscal activities. This is the key to ensure that internal financial controls are in place so that districts can counteract the growing problem of fraud in local governments.

### THE IRS & VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTER REIMBURSEMENT: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

One of the most contentious, emotional and controversial issues has been, and continues to be, the interpretation by the Internal Revenue

Service that volunteer firefighter per call stipends are defined as taxable income. This general session will provide representatives of the IRS and WFCFA legal counsel an opportunity to present their views. Additionally, there will be a review of the August 7, 2006, Department of Labor's opinion letter on volunteer firefighter reimbursements in relation to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER 26

### HEALTH CARE ISSUES—2007

WFCFA health care program representatives will review topics such as making the best choice on Medicare Parts A, B, C, D and Medicare supplements versus retiree coverage; what districts are doing with benchmarking, cost and benefit comparisons and dividend accounting; and how "wellness programs" impact the cost and quality of care and the impact of HIPAA on wellness incentives. Whether your district is already enrolled in the WFCFA health care program or is considering a change, you won't want to miss this workshop.

### BOND FINANCING FOR FIRE DISTRICTS

Jim Nelson, Senior Municipal Underwriter with Martin Nelson & Company, will provide an informative overview of fire district financing through voter and non-voter approved bonds. This seminar will focus on the following:

- The ABC's of bond financing (i.e., debt capacity analysis, estimated payments, timing of the financing plan, and avoiding the pitfalls through a solid communication plan).
- Tax levy rate analysis and a review of voter information strategies.
- Preparation of an underlying bond rating.

### INTER-AGENCY PURCHASING AGREEMENTS

How can your district get "the best bang for your buck" by using joint purchasing agreements? This program will feature a cost-effective model to assist you in streamlining the purchase of goods and services.

You will also learn how your fire district can utilize the limited small works roster for construction projects up to \$35,000.

### GROWTH MANAGEMENT: HOW FIRE DISTRICTS CAN BE INVOLVED

This workshop will review the updated laws and provisions of the Washington State Growth Management Act and how fire districts can be involved in negotiation and possible mitigation of impact fees through the "SEPA" process. Mitigation impacts due to new development can be negotiated by following the proper steps and becoming involved early in the process. Annexation statutes will also be reviewed.

## SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 27

### JIM WHITT: THE POWER OF PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP

People today are searching for two things: 1) ways to reach their own potential (self-actualization) and 2) the chance to contribute their potential to something bigger than themselves (team-actualization).

Join nationally acclaimed speaker Jim Whitt as he shares his unique perspective on helping your employees become "partners in a cause" and fit into your organization's "big picture."

See how Jim's message has transformed lives, leaders and organizations through the Power of Purpose.





## 2007 Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws*, listed below is action taken by the 2007 Nominating Committee for presentation to the membership. The committee was chaired by Richard Kistler (Thurston 7) and consisted of the following members: Brad Langdell, Walla Walla 5 (Region 2), A. J. Hill, Benton 4 (Region 4), Frank Peep, Woodinville Fire & Life Safety District (Region 6), and Gary Larson, Clark 9 (Region 8). The committee nominated the following individuals for the 2008 WFCA Board of Directors:

### OFFICERS

**President**----- Joe Dawson, Spokane County FPD 1

**Vice President** -----Bill Gates, South King Fire & Rescue

**Secretary-Treasurer** -----Les Riel, Yakima County FPD 4

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

**Region 1** ----- Sharon Colby, Spokane 3

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS (continued)

**Region 3** ----- Dennis Bjork, Grant 5

**Region 5** -----Steve Lich, Camano Island Fire & Rescue/Island 1

**Region 7** -----Robert Skaggs, Graham Fire & Rescue/Pierce 21

**Region 9** -----Mick McKinley, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue/Kitsap 1

It is suggested each nominee be allowed a maximum of three supportive speeches with a maximum total time of six minutes. The membership has the authority to allow whatever time it deems appropriate. Nominations will be accepted on the floor at conference.

## ***HERE'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS...***

**WHAT?** 2007 Auxiliary Silent Auction & Raffle

**WHEN?** October 25-26 (Annual Conference)

**WHERE?** Red Lion Hotel in Pasco in the Project/Design Room (donations may be dropped off beginning Wednesday night, October 24)

**WHY?** To Benefit the Harborview Burn Center

**WHO?** You, of course! (The Auxiliary relies on the kind donations of WFCA members and friends—anything you can contribute will be greatly appreciated!)

**CONTACT:** Lois Hensley, Silent Auction & Raffle Chairperson (write 1603 W. Ballard Rd., Spokane, WA 99208, or call 509.466.2162) or Kim Burrus, Silent Auction & Raffle Co-Chairperson (write 4109 Melody Ln., Pasco, WA 99302, or call 509.547.9476)

**AND...** If you wish to join the Auxiliary, the dues are \$15 (which pays expenses)

**UNFORTUNATELY PERISHABLE ITEMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Only cash or check payments will be accepted for auction and raffle items.**



## Ads

**FOR SALE by Grays Harbor 5:** '79 Ford F800 2000 gal Tender, 475-4V, 31000 GVWR, ONLY 7597 mi (has had very little use!), 5 speed man, gas, PTO pump, elec hose reel, good rubber. Left & right side 2-1/2" suctions & discharge, rear 2-1/2" discharge. Ext & roof ladders. PRICE JUST REDUCED TO \$5,500. Email Randy Coggan at [coggan@ghfd5.org](mailto:coggan@ghfd5.org).

**FOR SALE by Pend Oreille 4:** '77 American LaFrance, Custom Cab 6V92 Detroit Dies, 1250 pump/750 tank, man trans, truck in great cond, sale as is where is w/no warranties/guarantees implied. \$10,000 OBO. For info email [pocfd4@povn.com](mailto:pocfd4@povn.com).

**FOR SALE by San Juan 4:** District 4 has the following vehicles for sale:

1) '66 Ford F850 Western Star Fire Eng, front mounted 750 gpm fire pump is supplied by a booster tank carrying 1000 gallons of water. Equipped w/200' of booster line, 20' of 5" hard suction, 1200' of 2-1/2" hose & 800' of 1-1/2" hose. Engine has less than 15000 mi; motor & pump are operational w/minor mechanical issues.

2) '69 Internat'l Pumper/Tender; front mounted 750 gpm fire pump is supplied by 2200 gallons of water. Motor & pump are operational w/mechanical issues.

3) '85 Ford Wheeled Coach Ambulance Type III; no equip incl except 1 ambulance cot. Ambulance is operational & in good condition.

Vehicles can be seen by appt. Inquiries may be made to Chief Rob Miesen at the Dist Ofc @ 2228 Fisherman Bay Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261 or by calling 360.468.2991. Sealed bids identifying the vehicle must be delivered to the Dist Ofc no later than 3 pm, 10/18/07. All sales "as is, where is." Dist reserves the right to accept/reject any/all offers.

**FOR SALE by Snohomish 7:** Type III ambulances:

- '89 Northstar ambulance, 172,918 mi, good cond, est fair market value \$5,000;
- '92 Northstar ambulance, 102,922 mi, good cond, est fair market value \$13,000;
- '95 Northstar ambulance, 130,008 mi, good cond, est fair market value \$12,000.

Pictures avail on dist website: [www.firedistrict7.com](http://www.firedistrict7.com). Dist will negotiate sales price w/any interested party. Questions should be directed to Asst Chief Eric Andrews at 360.668.5357. Avail for immediate transfer.

## Questions About Health Care? Ask at Conference!

In addition to the Health Care class on Friday afternoon at conference, WFCAs health care representatives will be available for informal one-on-one consultations (questions and answers). The consultation room will be open on Thursday and Friday (October 25 & 26); specific hours will be posted at the WFCAs registration desk on Wednesday afternoon.

Tom Treves (Health Care Manager) and Barb Wills (Principal) of Mercer will be available to answer all your questions and to provide information for the 2008 plans.

For those of you who were unable to attend the August health care workshops, this is an excellent opportunity to get the facts regarding health care for 2008.

## Network from Page One

A user guide is provided with each GETS card to facilitate training. Please visit the GETS website at [www.gets.ncs.gov](http://www.gets.ncs.gov) for more information.

### Wireless Priority Services (WPS)

Wireless Priority Service provides priority capabilities for emergency calls made from cellular telephones.

Cellular congestion usually occurs in the local cell—WPS provides priority on the radio connection between the user's cell phone and the cell tower plus the same across the network priority as GETS by simply dialing \*272 plus the destination telephone number.

Wireless Priority Service is an add-on feature subscribed on a per cell phone basis; no special phones are required. WPS is available from Cingular/AT&T, Edge Wireless, Sprint/Nextel, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless. Sprint PCS plans to make WPS available by the end of the year.

Cellular Service Providers may invoice a monthly fee of up to \$4.50 and 75 cents per minute on the existing cell bill. WPS is requested and administered through the same on-line system as GETS. For more information, please visit the WPS website is [www.wps.ncs.gov](http://www.wps.ncs.gov).

## Speaker from Page One

- His father's pardon of President Nixon to help put an end to the infamous Watergate affair;
- Two assassination attempts on his father's life;
- His mother's bouts with alcoholism and breast cancer.

An accomplished actor, Mr. Ford has appeared on numerous television shows and movies. You won't want to miss his talk on Thursday morning.

Best described on the platform as a cross between Dr. Phil and Jeff Foxworthy, Jim Whitt will make you think and laugh all at the same time during his Saturday presentation.

From cowboy to Oklahoma State University graduate, Jim became a top producing salesman and marketing executive with two Fortune 500 companies. In 1988 he discovered his purpose in life: to help people reach their full potential.

Since that time Jim has worked with companies and associations in many different industries transforming lives along the way. Don't miss Jim's fun, fast-paced program!



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8:30AM - 4:30PM  
MONDAY - FRIDAY



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